DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joshua, the Attingal Municipality were told by the Government that, if they wanted to rebuild their school, they could have a loan from the Government on the security of their Municipal revenues. Of course, that will bear interest. But the Municipality have not yet thought fit to reply and therefore I am not able to give you a definite reply at present.

82. Vernacular Schools at Punalur.

MR. C. PERCY BHANU (*Member, Pattanapuram taluk*) said that some taluks were fortunate in getting a more than usual share of encouragement at the hands of the Government in the matter of education, but Pattanapuram taluk, as a whole, could not boast of a Government Vernacular Middle School. However, he said there was a building intended to hold classes up to the 7th, but it was dilapidated and unsuitable. The school was held in an old building situated in a low corner of the Taluk Cutcherry premises, in which, besides the Taluk Cutcherry, there were other offices also. This was very inconvenient and a building for housing the school should be constructed.

Considerable difficulty was experienced by the people for want of a separate school for girls. Girls were now being admitted in the boys' school, but this was found to be very inconvenient, and after a period, the girls ceased to attend the school. A separate girls' school was therefore an urgent necessity.

The difficulties of grant-in-aid schools were two in number. In the first place, Government allowed two schools to be conducted in the same locality in very close proximity. The consequence was that there were not enough pupils for either of the schools and, in some cases, it gave rise to unhealthy rivalry between the two schools. In the second place, the grants allowed to the private schools were paid only from the year from which they were sanctioned. This rule caused hardship to the managements which had to forego considerable sums of money because of the delay in issuing the necessary orders. Better arrangements should be made for this purpose.

The English Middle School built by the people of the locality should be raised into a High School.

The pay of the teachers in Pattanapuram taluk should be raised, as a special case, the increase taking the shape of hill allowance.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Percy Bhanu, the Director of Public Instruction will be asked to report upon the various requests that you have made. And some day when I go to Punalur, I shall be happy to look into those matters.

83. Cattle pounds.

MR. R. J. MACMULLIN (*Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association*) pointed out the dearth of cattle pounds in the locality, even though provision had recently been made for a pound at Vandiperiyar. The distances between this and the other pounds at Kumili and Arudai were so great as to restrict their usefulness. Further, since these pounds were all on the main road, the difficulty of taking the cattle from places away from the main road was great. Consequently, the owners of cattle had become emboldened to let loose their cattle. Besides being a nuisance to neighbouring land-owners, the stray cattle impeded motor traffic on the roads on the excellent condition of which he congratulated the Government.

He suggested, in conclusion, that, as in Ceylon, where the nuisance was as great, more pounds should be provided all round the locality, where they would be accessible to the people. It would be to the benefit of the whole community that owners of cattle were taught their responsibility in tending their animals.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Macmullin, on the representation of the Mundakayam Planters' Association at the twenty-first session of the Assembly, the Government decided to establish two cattle pounds in the locality you refer to. But they gave

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the sanction subject to the proviso that the Planters' Association agreed to certain conditions such as leaving the buildings and sites in the possession and under the control of the District Magistrate, Devicolam, so long as those pounds are maintained by the Government, and, secondly, that the appointment of the pound keepers should rest with the District Magistrate, though made in consultation with the estate managers. As soon as we learn that the Association is prepared to accede to these conditions, pounds will forthwith be opened.

84. The Game and Fish Protection Regulation, XII of 1089.

MR. R. J. MACMULLIN (*Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association*) said that the planters of Peermade, who had for many years considered themselves guardians of game-shooting in the district, were now suffering from a disability by being deprived of their shooting licenses. The reason alleged by the Government for cancelling the license was that game was being illicitly and indiscriminately shot. English sportsmen would never do it. It was against sporting rules to injure animals unnecessarily, to shoot in the breeding seasons and to injure the female of any species. The Member thought that the destruction of game was caused by ruthless people without license, but possessing firearms, who were either ignorant of, or who violated purposely, the laws of sporting, and whose only object was to obtain a bag. In the opinion of the Member the only method of checking this destruction was to encourage European planters in assisting the Government as they (the European Planters) were, by nature and education, bent on preserving the game in the neighbourhood. Moreover, they were the people on the spot and most likely to know the poachers. The Member proposed that the Game Protection Association of the Planters be revived and encouraged by the Government and given power to put down illicit shooting. This was also, by the way, the sole means of rendering efficient the work of the Forest Guards. The Commissioner, Devicolam, had, some time ago, issued a circular asking the planters to refrain from abusing their privileges and to prevent ignorant but merciless people from destroying the game. But the game was no interest to them unless they, the natural and effective preservers of the game, were encouraged. Concluding, the Member said, that if the Game Protection Society were given the necessary powers, they would not only keep a close eye on the game of the district but will also be able to assist the Guards and thus make the supervision doubly efficient.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Macmullin, the question of game preservation has already been engaging the attention of the Government and the views you now advance on behalf of the Central Travancore Planters' Association that a Game Protection Society be formed and supported by the Government will receive early consideration.

85. Educational Reforms.

MR. M. K. RAMAN PILLAI (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk, Group I*) said that to make the educational policy successful it was necessary to effect certain reforms to suit the altered conditions.

Firstly, in regard to elementary education, the policy now followed was culminating in a failure. Important among the reasons mentioned for the failure were—

(i) The bad condition of the school buildings and the deficiency of furniture and other school accessories.

(ii) The scarcity of teachers trained in modern methods such as Montessori and Kindergarten.

(iii) The low pay of the Vernacular School teachers which should be raised from Rs. 14 and fixed at Rs. 20 to Rs. 25.

(iv) The neglect of the physique of the pupils in English Schools. A medical officer should be asked to examine the boys and certify to their health.

(v) The unpractical course of studies. It was too literary and theoretical to be of any help to the pupils to win their daily bread. Manual training could not be considered a useful course. The remedy suggested was that the programme of spinning recently introduced should be pushed through.

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